2.	Kopargaon-Shirdi	Maharashtra	Planning Commission have conveyed their approval to the project subject to the condition that the cost of the line is shared by the Temple Authority.

ELECTRIFICATION

1.	Udhna-Dasoda (Part of Udhna-Jalgaon Project)	Gujarat & Maharashtra	Work is in progress.

देश में उर्बरक उत्पादन

*86. **श्री चीमनभाई शुक्ला**: क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में उर्वरक उत्पादन की दर विश्न में औसत उत्पादन दर कि तुलना में कम है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संभंध में तथ्य क्या है तथा किस देश में यह दर सर्वाधिक है;

(ग) क्या सरकारि ने उत्पादन दर को बढाने के लिए उर्वरक प्रोद्योगिकी मिशन स्थापित करने का निर्णय लिया ह: और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस मिशन की स्थापना कब तक किये जाने कि संभावना है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला): (क) और (ख) भारत नाइट्रोजनयुक्त और फाष्फेटिक उर्वरकों का तीसरा सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक है और नाइट्रोजन तथा फास्फेट्स के उत्पादन में विश्व में इसका हिसा कमश: 9.4% तथा 7.6% है । नाइट्रोजन तथा फास्फेट के विश्व उत्पादन में चीन तथा संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका क्रमश: प्रथम और द्वितीय स्थान पर है । देश में पोटाश के कोई ज्ञात स्रोत नही है और पोटासिक उर्वरकों की सम्पूर्ण आवश्यकता का आयात किया जाता है । भारत तथा विश्व में गत चार वर्षो के दौरान उर्वरक पोषकों का उत्पादन और वृद्धि दर इस प्रकार है:–

उर्वरक पोषकों का उत्पादन और वृद्धि दर

	विश्व		भारत	
	उत्पादन (लाख मी. टन)	वृद्धि दर (प्रतिशत)	उत्पादन (लाख मी. टन)	वृद्धि दर (प्रतिशत)
1994-95	1364.7	3.5	104.38	15.4
1995-96	1435.37	5.2	113.35	8.6
1996-97	1481.74	3.2	111.55	(-) 1.6
1997-98	अनुपलब्ध	-	130.64	17.1

(ग) जी, नहीं ।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Hike in the Price of Essential Commodities

*87.SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the food security experts have
stated that the steep rise in prices of onion, potato, salt and other essential food commodities in the country was caused by market manipulation, rather than the real shortage thereof;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken so far against the black marketeers and hoarders of stocks thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision, till date, to convene an urgent meeting of the Chief Ministers of all the States to discuss the steps to contain the steep hike in the prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SURJJT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) In recent months, various opinions have been expressed regarding the reasons for the steep rise in prices of essential commodities. As per the assessment of the Government, the recent increases in the prices of onions, potatoes and certain other essential commodities were due primarily to decline in their production caused in turn by adverse climatic conditions and decline in area under cultivation as also non-availability of sufficient quantities for imports in the international markets. There is no shortage of salt in the country. The Government has taken a number of measures to control and stabilise the prices of essential commodities. Import of onion and pulses have been placed under OGL at zero duty and import duty on

edible oils has been reduced from 25% to 15%. Export of onion and pulses have been banned. All the State Government have been requested to take stringent action against hoarders and black marketeers under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act. The supplies of essential commodities and their prices are being monitored on daily basis.

(c) The Government had convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers to discuss issues relating to price rise on 27.11.98. In the meeting several short-term and medium-term measures to contain and stabilise the prices of essential commodities were taken.

Disease Surveillance Programmes

*88.SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nation-wide disease surveillance programmes which were proposed to be started, have been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, if not, by when these would be started; and

(c) the number of centres to be opened in the North-Eastern States and in which medical institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) A pilot programme for undertaking disease surveillance and rapid response to disease outbreaks was introduced in 1997 and has been continued in 1998. Till now 25 districts have been covered and during the IXth Plan the prugramme is to be extended in a phased manner. The project essentially builds district capacity to recognise early warning signals of disease outbreaks and to tackle them promptly.

(c) There is a proposal to include 14 districts in the North-Eastern States under the Programme during the IXth Plan. The names of the districts and medical institutes are yet to be finalised.

Crime against Women

*89. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has proved to be a toothless organisation, having largely failed in its objective of focussing on and resolving the problems faced by the womenfolk in the present-day male-dominated society, securing status and human dignity to women and girls; curbing crime against women and bringing the culprits to book, followed by deterrent punishment;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) what specific recommendations for amending or enacting women-related legislations are pending response and decision by Government or/are pending before Parliament and the State Legislatures?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) No. Sir. The National Commission for Women has been performing its functions in accordance with the mandate contained in the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

s. No.	Name of Legislation
	Amendment of existing legislations:—
1.	Dowry prohibition Act, 1961
2.	The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987
3.	The Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.
4.	The Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1986.
5.	Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929.
6.	Hindu Marriage Act, 1955
7.	Guardians and Wards Act, 1890
8.	Indian Succesion Act, 1925.